AHIMA Advantage e-alert

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November 3-9—
HI&T Week

November 4-5—
Coding (SCC)
CoP Fall seminar,
Philadelphia, PA

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Taking the
Mystery Out of
Code Assignments
audio seminar

November 21—
HIPAA Overview
audio seminar

January 24—
deadline for 2003
National Ballot call
for nominations

1. Bowen Testifies on HIPAA Privacy Implementation

Rita Bowen, MA, HIMT, RHIA, CHP, testified on HIPAA privacy rule implementation to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) Privacy and Confidentiality subcommittee, on Tuesday in Baltimore, MD. Bowen identified a number of efforts on the part of the Tennessee HIMA and AHIMA to address implementation issues for privacy. It was noted that THIMA has appointed HIPAA champions to coordinate activities within each geographic region of the state. These champions attend HIPAA-focused meetings at the hospital association and take the information back to their region for discussion and feedback. Each area is hosting meetings and coordinating education sessions for physicians or their practice managers.

The subcommittee is holding a series of public meetings to gain information on roadblocks to privacy rule implementation and ideas for what the Office of Civil Rights can do to assist HIPAA entities. The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for November 6-7 in Salt Lake City, UT. Additional details are available at: http://ncvhs.hhs.gov/.

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2. HHS Secretary to Establish Advisory Committee

on Genetics, Health, Society

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced that secretary Tommy Thompson will establish an advisory committee on genetics, health, and society. This 13-member committee will provide a forum for discussion, deliberation, formulation of advice, and recommendations on the range of complex and sensitive medical, ethical, legal, and social issues raised by new technological developments in human genetics. In addition, the committee will assist HHS and other federal agencies in exploring issues raised by the development and application of genetic technologies and make recommendations to the secretary on how such issues should be addressed. Details can be found in the October 23, 2002, *Federal Register* at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a021023c.html.

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3. NCVHS Subcommittee Discusses PMRI Terminology Standards

The Subcommittee on Standards and Security of the NCVHS discussed approaches for organizing patient medical record information (PMRI) terminologies for use in electronic medical record systems during its October 23 meeting. In particular, the discussion focused on a conceptual terminology model that envisions a three-layer approach. The first layer would consist of a core convergent terminology that would support accurate patient record documentation, improvement of clinical outcomes, and decision support. An example of a terminology in this category is SNOMED CT. The second layer would be comprised of departmental and professional or "limited-scope," terminologies, which would provide for clinical system integration and support of departmental functions. The various nursing terminologies would fall in

this category. The third layer would be administrative code sets used to support administrative and government reporting requirements, such as ICD-9-CM and CPT.

The next meeting of the NCVHS Subcommittee on Standards and Security is on December 10-11 in Washington, DC. Meetings are broadcast live over the Internet and can be accessed via the NCVHS Web site at: http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/.

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4. New 2003 Level II Alpha-numeric HCPCS Procedure Codes Released

A review of the 2003 Level II Alpha-numeric HCPCS procedure code changes reveals some interesting additions to the G codes. For example, G0263 for direct admission of a patient with diagnosis of congestive heart failure, chest pain or asthma for observation and G0264 for initial nursing assessment of a patient directly admitted to observation with diagnosis other than congestive heart failure, chest pain, or asthma. HIM professionals should become familiar with the all the code changes and the applicable Medicare administrative, coverage, and pricing data. The files containing the codes can now be downloaded at:

http://cms.hhs.gov/providers/pufdownload/anhcpcdl.asp.

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5. Two New Groups to Promote, Improve HL7 Standards

The HL7 Board of Directors and the HL7 Technical Steering Committee announced the formation of the Clinical Genomics special interest group. The group was developed to collect, review, develop, and

document clinical genomics use cases to determine what data needs to be exchanged. It will also recommend enhancements or extensions of HL7's normative standards for exchange of information about clinical genomic orders and observations. The group's mission and charter are available at:

http://www.HL7.org/Special/committees/clingenomics/clingenomics.htm.
A new committee called the Process Improvement Committee was also developed. This board-appointed committee serves to identify, collect, track, and resolve issues pertaining to organizational process and improvement. The committee will allow HL7 members to voice their ideas pertaining to improvement opportunities for the organization.
For more information about the group, including how to join and subscribe to the committee's listserv, go to:

http://www.HL7.org/special/committees/list_sub.cfm?list=clingenomics.

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6. CMS Grants Joint Commission Deeming Authority for Critical Access Hospitals

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the granting of deeming authority for critical access hospitals to the Joint Commission, effective November 21. Critical access hospitals are those that provide essential services to patients in underserved communities. This designation means that critical access hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission will be considered to have met Medicare certification requirements. According to CMS, the Joint Commission's standards for critical access hospitals meet or exceed those established by the Medicare program.

The federal government's final notice providing the deemed status option to Joint Commission accredited critical access hospitals was published in the August 23, 2002, Federal Register. Accreditation

continues to be voluntary and seeking deemed status through accreditation is an option and not a requirement for Medicare certification. For more information on the Joint Commission's critical access accreditation program, go to: http://www.jcaho.org.

7. November/December *Journal*: Making Data Meaningful

Data quality managers are playing an essential role in healthcare today: turning raw data into valuable information for research, planning, and quality improvement efforts. In the November/December *Journal of AHIMA* cover story, "From Figures to Facts: Data Quality Managers Emerge as Knowledge Leaders," learn how data quality managers are taking their HIM skills to a new level. This article is available in the FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge in the Communities of Practice and also on AHIMA's Web site at: http://www.ahima.org. Does the medical decision making in your facility suffer due to incomplete patient records? Find out how an enterprise master patient index (EMPI) can boost medical record integrity in "Connecting Care through EMPIs." Also in November/December: improving data quality in clinical trials, 2003 ICD-9-CM and DRG changes, and disaster planning for a mass-casualty event.

8. Explore AHIMA's Online Vendor Directory

The online HIM Vendor Directory is a great way to learn about current products and services for the HIM industry. More than 200 companies are listed in the directory, which can be searched alphabetically by company name, by state, and by vendor specialty. All companies which are current exhibitors, AHIMA/FORE donors or sponsors, corporate affiliates, and display advertisers receive a complimentary listing in the

directory, and non-affiliated companies can purchase listings. Because each company is responsible for maintaining its own listing information, product descriptions can be updated frequently providing members with the most up-to-date information. The vendor directory can be accessed from the AHIMA Web page at: http://www.ahima.org under HIM Resources, from the CoP, or by going to: http://www.ahimanet.org/VendorDirectory.

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9. Call for Nominations for 2003 National Ballot

AHIMA has benefited from qualified and committed individuals stepping forward and contributing their time, energy, and talents to achieve the mission of the Association. Each year, members elect future leaders of the Board of Directors, the Council on Accreditation (COA), and the Council on Certification (COC) through a national election. Based on criteria for the elected positions, the Nominating Committee selects the slate of candidates for the election. As we begin the process of selecting those individuals who will assume office in January 2004, our first appeal is to you, the member. We encourage you to seek one of the national elected positions or assist the Nominating Committee by identifying AHIMA members who will provide strong leadership for AHIMA in the years ahead. Please note **the deadline for submissions is January 24, 2003**. For more information, please go to: http://www.ahima.org/directory/2003_call_for_nominations.html. Voting will take place in May 2003. Watch for details on how and when to vote.

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10. CoP News You Can Use

Using the Chat with Peers Function

The Chat with Peers feature in each Community allows you to connect with other AHIMA members in real time. Chats allow members to keep up with the latest information in HIM or conduct Component State Association business. And you can do all this without leaving your home or office.

To participate in a chat, go into a community at the designated chat time and select the Chat icon. After a few seconds, you will join the chat and see your name as well as the other participants in the left-hand column. To make a comment, simply type your message in the box at the bottom. Directions to begin are located when you click on the Help link. Check the calendar in your Community for upcoming chats or volunteer to lead one. You can use your HIM experience as a starting point.

If you are having problems connecting to a chat (e.g., you get a blank gray square where the chat is supposed to be), it may be related to your network. If you are connecting from a work network, you will need to contact your IS department and ask them to open **port 7777 and port 7877**.

If you are using Internet Explorer 5.0 for Community Discussions, you may be having trouble viewing the titles of the discussion threads. To view them, upgrade to a newer version of Internet Explorer free from the Microsoft site by visiting: http://www.Microsoft.com/downloads.

CoPs newly approved and opening soon

Geographic: District of Columbia, Michele Gowen, facilitator

Human Resources, James Macormack, facilitator

CoP newly opened

Geographic: Southern Illinois, Marcia Matthias, facilitator

Geographic: Kentucky, Stacie Smith, facilitator

Geographic: Wyoming, Laurie Bartell, facilitator

11. Privacy Training Videotapes Now Available

The Oregon Health Information Management Association (OHIMA) has produced two informative, closed-captioned videotapes to help your staff safeguard patient information. These tapes are ideal for employee orientation, training, and in-services because they cite real-world examples and provide tips for guarding patient confidentiality.

"Confidentially Speaking," a 14-minute video, examines the privacy pitfalls of computers, telephones, copiers, fax machines, answering machines, recycled materials, and casual conversation. Real-world cases are used.

"Keeping it Confidential," a 17-minute video, helps avoid breaches of confidentiality on cellular phones, PDAs, laptops, pagers, computer networks, and e-mail. Through a series of real-world situations, tips are provided for guarding patient confidentiality when using those technologies.

This set of videotapes is regularly sold at $176. For the month of November only, AHIMA members can buy the set of both videotapes for $99 (a 44 percent discount) with no shipping charges. Hurry, this sale expires November 30, 2002.

To order, go to: http://www.myriasresources.com/ohima.html and print the special AHIMA member order form. You can complete your purchase with a check, Visa, or MasterCard. Fax the completed order to (503) 690-0251. **This sale only lasts until November 30, so order now!**

12. Upcoming Audio Seminars

November 7

Taking the Mystery Out of Code Assignment

Faculty: Kathy Brouch, RHIA, CCS, and Susan Gutjahr, RHIT, CCS,

CPC

Basic and beneficial, this seminar helps attendees improve data quality and consistency in code selection, develop a better understanding of how to select codes in complex cases, and discover best practices in code selection.

For registration and information, visit:

http://imis.ahima.org/orders/productByType.cfm?t=1

or call (800) 335-5535.

November 21

HIPAA Overview

Faculty: Brian Gradle, Esq., and Mary Thomason, RHIA

This general training seminar provides a big picture look at HIPAA's final privacy rule for a solid understanding as we move toward implementation. The seminar will cover the respective components of administrative simplification and legislative status of each, the components of the final privacy rule, consumer privacy rights (from the consumer's perspective as well as the organization's), and key issues affecting organizational implementation.

For registration and information, visit:

http://imis.ahima.org/orders/productByType.cfm?t=1

or call (800) 335-5535.

13. Coding Community Fall Seminar Provides Essential Guidance

Keeping afloat in an arena of ever-growing, ever-changing regulatory and technological advancements is never easy. AHIMA's Coding (SCC) Community provides you with the essential guidance you need to achieve consistent coding excellence. Our two-day fall seminar will help you keep up with the latest in coding policies, practices, and procedures.

You can attend just the hospital program, just the physician program, or both. The hospital program will concentrate on the topics that cause hospital coding specialists the most problems such as interventional radiology, modifiers, and medical necessity.

The physician program will explore issues that offer the greatest challenges for physician coding specialists, including a review of interventional radiology, and a comprehensive analysis of medical necessity. Both days will include a Coding Roundtable session where you will have the chance to discuss problematic coding issues and network with your peers.

An AHIMA Coding (SCC) Community fall seminar will be held in **Philadelphia, PA, November 4-5**. Registration for one day only is $145 for AHIMA members and $195 for nonmembers. To attend both days, the cost is $245 for AHIMA members and $295 for nonmembers. For the complete meeting agenda, registration, and travel and hotel information, visit: http://www.ahima.org/coding.

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Contacting AHIMA

For general queries and to update your e-mail address, please send your full name, member ID number, and your new e-mail address to info@ahima.org. For practice questions, send e-mail to proprac@ahima.org. Send your comments about your AHIMA *Advantage E-Alert* to e-alert-reply@ahima.org. You may also update your e-mail address yourself online. Go on the AHIMA Web site at http://www.ahima.org/ and then click on the Member Profile. Here you can update your membership contact information and complete the Member Profile.

Viewing Your E-Alert

This e-mail is best viewed with an HTML-enabled e-mail client. If your e-mail client does not support the viewing of HTML messages, you should receive this message in plain text format. If you are not sure about the capabilities of your e-mail client, contact your IT department or ISP. In most cases, upgrading your e-mail client to the latest version will allow for viewing e-mail messages in HTML format. If you still have problems viewing this message in either HTML or plain text format, send an e-mail to

e-alert@ahima.org and provide a description of the problem you are having. Please include your operating system and e-mail client version information.

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